GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:593
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2003
RETENTION OF MIG-21 AIRCRAFTS
KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Defence accompanied a Wing Commander who piloted a MIG fighter aircraft at Ambala base;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to retain all MIG-21 variants in the IAF; and

(d) if so, the exact stand of the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The sortie was flown in a MiG-21 trainer with Wing Commander N. Harish on 1st August, 2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) MiG-21 variants form the bulk of the fighter fleet in the Indian Air Force.These aircraft will be phased out once they complete their total technical life.